AssayMax™

Rat TNF-alpha ELISA Kit

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For any questions regarding troubleshooting or performing the assay, please contact our support team at support@assaypro.com.

Thank you for choosing Assaypro.

Assay Summary

Step 1. Add 50 µl of Standard or Sample per well.
Incubate 2 hours.

Step 2. Wash, then add 50 µl of Biotinylated Antibody per well.
Incubate 2 hours.

Step 3. Wash, then add 50 µl of SP Conjugate per well.
Incubate 30 minutes.

Step 4. Wash, then add 50 µl of Chromogen Substrate per well.
Incubate 20 minutes.

Step 5. Add 50 µl of Stop Solution per well.
Read at 450 nm immediately.

Symbol Key

Consult instructions for use.

Assay Template

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A												
B												
C												
D												
E												
F												
G												
H												

Rat Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) ELISA Kit

Catalog No. ERT2010-1

Sample insert for reference use only

Introduction

Tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) is a potent cytokine with a myriad of innate immune anti-tumor properties. TNF-alpha has a critical role in the bone and cartilage damage (1). Research indicates that TNF-alpha may be involved in the pathogenesis and/or progression of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) [2]. TNF-alpha is expressed in myocardium during compensated pressure overload hypertrophy (3).

Principle of the Assay

The AssayMax Rat Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) kit is designed for detection of TNF-alpha in rat **cell culture samples**. This assay employs a quantitative **sandwich enzyme immunoassay** technique that measures rat TNF-alpha in less than 5 hours. A murine monoclonal antibody specific for rat TNF-alpha has been pre-coated onto a 96-well microplate with removable strips. Rat TNF-alpha in standards and samples is sandwiched by the immobilized antibody and a biotinylated polyclonal antibody specific for rat TNF-alpha, which is recognized by a streptavidin-peroxidase conjugate. All unbound material is washed away and a peroxidase enzyme substrate is added. The color development is stopped and the intensity of the color is measured.

Caution and Warning

- This product is for **Research Use Only** and is Not For Use In Diagnostic Procedures.
- Prepare all reagents (working diluent buffer, wash buffer, standard, biotinylated antibody, and SP conjugate) as instructed, prior to running the assay.
- Prepare all samples prior to running the assay. The dilution factors for the samples are suggested in this insert. However, the user should determine the optimal dilution factor.
- Spin down the SP conjugate vial and the biotinylated antibody vial before opening and using contents.
- The Stop Solution is an acidic solution.

- The kit should not be used beyond the expiration date.

Reagents

- **Rat TNF-alpha Microplate:** A 96-well polystyrene microplate (12 strips of 8 wells) coated with a murine monoclonal antibody against rat TNF-alpha.
- **Sealing Tapes:** Each kit contains 3 precut, pressure sensitive sealing tapes that can be cut to fit the format of the individual assay.
- **Rat TNF-alpha Standard:** Rat TNF-alpha in a buffered protein base (1.5 ng, lyophilized).
- **Biotinylated Rat TNF-alpha Antibody (50x):** A 50-fold concentrated biotinylated polyclonal antibody against rat TNF-alpha (120 µl).
- **MIX Diluent Concentrate (10x)**: A 10-fold concentrated buffered protein base (30 ml).
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x)**: A 20-fold concentrated buffered surfactant (30 ml, 2 bottles).
- **Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate (SP Conjugate):** A 100-fold concentrate (80 µl).
- **Chromogen Substrate**: A ready-to-use stabilized peroxidase chromogen substrate tetramethylbenzidine (8 ml).
- **Stop Solution**: A 0.5 N hydrochloric acid to stop the chromogen substrate reaction (12 ml).

Storage Condition

- Upon arrival, immediately store components of the kit at recommended temperatures up to the expiration date.
- Store SP Conjugate and Biotinylated Antibody at -20°C.
- Store Microplate, Diluent Concentrate (10x), Wash Buffer, Stop Solution, and Chromogen Substrate at 2-8°C.
- Unused microplate wells may be returned to the foil pouch with the desiccant packs and resealed. May be stored for up to 30 days in a vacuum desiccator.
- Diluent (1x) may be stored for up to 30 days at 2-8°C.
- Store Standard at 2-8°C before reconstituting with Diluent and at -20°C after reconstituting with Diluent.

Other Supplies Required

- Microplate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm.
- Pipettes (1-20 µl, 20-200 µl, 200-1000 µl, and multiple channel).
- Deionized or distilled reagent grade water.

Sample Collection, Preparation, and Storage

- **Cell Culture Supernatants:** Centrifuge cell culture media at 3000 x *g* for 10 minutes to remove debris. Collect supernatants and assay. Samples can be stored at -20°C or below. Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Reagent Preparation

- Freshly dilute all reagents and bring all reagents to room temperature before use.
- **MIX Diluent Concentrate (10x)**: If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute the MIX Diluent Concentrate 1:10 with reagent grade water. Store for up to 30 days at 2-8°C.
- **Standard Curve:** Reconstitute the 1.5 ng of Rat TNF-alpha Standard with 1.5 ml of MIX Diluent to generate a 1 ng/ml standard stock solution. Allow the standard to sit for 10 minutes with gentle agitation prior to making dilutions. Prepare duplicate or triplicate standard points by serially diluting the standard stock solution 1:2 with equal volume of MIX Diluent to produce 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.063, 0.031, and 0.016 ng/ml solutions. MIX Diluent serves as the zero standard (0 ng/ml). Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C and use within 30 days.

Standard Point	Dilution	[Rat TNF-alpha] (ng/ml)
P1	1 part Standard (1 ng/ml)	1.000
P2	1 part P1 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.500
P3	1 part P2 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.250
P4	1 part P3 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.125
P5	1 part P4 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.063
P6	1 part P5 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.031
P7	1 part P6 + 1 part MIX Diluent	0.016
P8	MIX Diluent	0.000

- **Biotinylated Rat TNF-alpha Antibody (50x):** Spin down the antibody briefly and dilute the desired amount of the antibody 1:50 with MIX Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.
- **Wash Buffer Concentrate (20x):** If crystals have formed in the concentrate, mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:20 with reagent grade water.
- **SP Conjugate (100x):** Spin down the SP Conjugate briefly and dilute the desired amount of the conjugate 1:100 with MIX Diluent. Any remaining solution should be frozen at -20°C.

Assay Procedure

- Prepare all reagents, standard solutions, and samples as instructed. Bring all reagents to room temperature before use. The assay is performed at room temperature (20-25°C).
- Remove excess microplate strips from the plate frame and return them immediately to the foil pouch with desiccants inside. Reseal the pouch securely to minimize exposure to water vapor and store in a vacuum desiccator.
- Add 50 μl of Rat TNF-alpha Standard or sample per well. Cover wells with a sealing tape and incubate for 2 hours. Start the timer after the last addition.
- Wash five times with 200 μl of Wash Buffer manually. Invert the plate each time and decant the contents; hit 4-5 times on absorbent material to completely remove the liquid. If using a machine, wash six times with 300 μl of Wash Buffer and then invert the plate, decanting the contents; hit 4-5 times on absorbent material to completely remove the liquid.
- Add 50 μl of Biotinylated Rat TNF-alpha Antibody to each well and incubate for 2 hours.
- Wash the microplate as described above.
- Add 50 μl of Streptavidin-Peroxidase Conjugate per well and incubate for 30 minutes. Turn on the microplate reader and set up the program in advance.
- Wash the microplate as described above.
- Add 50 μl of Chromogen Substrate per well and incubate for 20 minutes or till the optimal blue color density develops. Gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing and break the bubbles in the well with pipette tip.
- Add 50 μl of Stop Solution to each well. The color will change from blue to yellow.
- Read the absorbance on a microplate reader at a wavelength of 450 nm **immediately**. If wavelength correction is available, subtract readings at 570 nm from those at 450 nm to correct optical imperfections. Otherwise, read the plate at 450 nm only. Please note that some unstable black particles may be generated at high concentration points after stopping the reaction for about 10 minutes, which will reduce the readings.

Data Analysis

- Calculate the mean value of the duplicate or triplicate readings for each standard and sample.
- To generate a standard curve, plot the graph using the standard concentrations on the x-axis and the corresponding mean 450 nm

absorbance (OD) on the y-axis. The best-fit line can be determined by regression analysis using log-log or four-parameter logistic curve-fit.

- Determine the unknown sample concentration from the Standard Curve and multiply the value by the dilution factor.

Typical Data

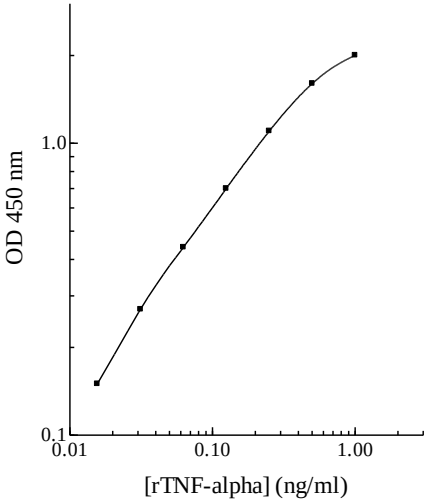
- The typical data is provided for reference only. Individual laboratory means may vary from the values listed. Variations between laboratories may be caused by technique differences.

Standard Point	ng/ml	OD	Average OD
P1	1.000	2.338 2.331	2.334
P2	0.500	1.885 1.901	1.893
P3	0.250	1.449 1.518	1.484
P4	0.125	0.952 1.010	0.981
P5	0.063	0.588 0.596	0.592
P6	0.031	0.427 0.458	0.443
P7	0.016	0.319 0.323	0.321
P8	0.000	0.142 0.140	0.141

Standard Curve

- The curve is provided for illustration only. A standard curve should be generated each time the assay is performed.

R. TNF-alpha Standard Curve



Performance Characteristics

- This assay recognizes both natural and recombinant rat TNF-alpha.
- **This kit can be used to detect high TNF-alpha levels in rat plasma.**
- The minimum detectable dose of rat TNF-alpha as calculated by 2SD from the mean of a zero standard was established to be 0.01 ng/ml.
- Intra-assay precision was determined by testing replicates of three plasma samples in one assay.
- Inter-assay precision was determined by testing three plasma samples in twenty assays.

	Intra-Assay Precision			**Inter-Assay Precision**		
Sample	1	2	3	1	2	3
n	20	20	20	20	20	20
CV (%)	4.1%	3.0%	3.2%	7.2%	7.4%	7.9%
Average CV (%)	3.4%			7.5%		

Troubleshooting

Issue	Causes	Course of Action
Low Precision	Use of expired components	• Check the expiration date listed before use. • Do not interchange components from different lots.
	Improper wash step	• Check that the correct wash buffer is being used. • Check that all wells are dry after aspiration. • Check that the microplate washer is dispensing properly. • If washing by pipette, check for proper pipetting technique.
	Splashing of reagents while loading wells	• Pipette properly in a controlled and careful manner.
	Inconsistent volumes loaded into wells	• Pipette properly in a controlled and careful manner. • Check pipette calibration. • Check pipette for proper performance.
	Insufficient mixing of reagent dilutions	• Thoroughly agitate the lyophilized components after reconstitution. • Thoroughly mix dilutions.
	Improperly sealed microplate	• Check the microplate pouch for proper sealing. • Check that the microplate pouch has no punctures. • Check that three desiccants are inside the microplate pouch prior to sealing.
Unexpectedly Low or High Signal Intensity	Microplate was left unattended between steps	• Each step of the procedure should be performed uninterrupted.
	Omission of step	• Consult the provided procedure for complete list of steps.
	Steps performed in incorrect order	• Consult the provided procedure for the correct order.
	Insufficient amount of reagents added to wells	• Check pipette calibration. • Check pipette for proper performance.
	Wash step was skipped	• Consult the provided procedure for all wash steps.
	Improper wash buffer	• Check that the correct wash buffer is being used.
	Improper reagent preparation	• Consult reagent preparation section for the correct dilutions of all reagents.
	Insufficient or prolonged incubation periods	• Consult the provided procedure for correct incubation time.
Deficient Standard Curve Fit	Non-optimal sample dilution	• Sandwich ELISA: If samples generate OD values higher than the highest standard point (P1), dilute samples further and repeat the assay. • Competitive ELISA: If samples generate OD values lower than the highest standard point (P1), dilute samples further and repeat the assay. • User should determine the optimal dilution factor for samples.
	Contamination of reagents	• A new tip must be used for each addition of different samples or reagents during the assay procedure.
	Contents of wells evaporate	• Verify that the sealing film is firmly in place before placing the assay in the incubator or at room temperature.
	Improper pipetting	• Pipette properly in a controlled and careful manner. • Check pipette calibration. • Check pipette for proper performance.

	Insufficient mixing of reagent dilutions	• Thoroughly agitate the lyophilized components after reconstitution. • Thoroughly mix dilutions.

References

(1) Taylor PC. (2001) *Mol. Biotechnol*. 19(2): 153-68
(2) Coughlan MT *et al*. (2001) *Diabet. Med*. 18(11): 921-7
(3) Stamm C *et al*. (2001) *Circulation* 104(12 Suppl 1): I350-5

Version 3.3R

Related products

- ET2010-1 AssayMax Human TNF-alpha ELISA Kit (Plasma, Serum, and Cell Culture samples)
- EMT2010-1 AssayMax Mouse TNF-alpha ELISA Kit (Plasma, Serum, and Cell Culture samples)